



CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 18, 2005

Contacts: Nicole Pagano/Adam Silber
(510) 450-2418

ICOC APPOINTS MEMBERS TO SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING WORKING GROUP

EMERYVILLE, CALIF.— The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) announced today the appointment by the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC) of 22 members to serve on its Scientific and Medical Research Funding Working Group (Grants Review Working Group). The members were recommended by a sub-committee of the ICOC which met for the first time approximately three months ago. They were appointed by a unanimous vote during the May 6 ICOC meeting in Fresno.

The Grants Review Working Group will provide scientific review and recommendations for funding to the ICOC of all applications for research grants and will also present scientific review for all facilities grant applications. As mandated by the California Research and Cures Act, the committee is composed of fifteen scientists from outside California and seven patient advocates from the ICOC. Robert Klein, the Chair of the ICOC, is an ex officio member. The scientists on the Grants Review Working Group were chosen from over 800 who were considered. Further information on the process can be found at the web site:

http://www.cirm.ca.gov/meetings/pdf/2005/05/06/05-06-05_Flow.pdf.

“CIRM will be judged by the quality of the science that we sponsor,” said Interim President Zach Hall, Ph.D. “The role of this working group is to identify the very best science for us. Its quality will determine the quality of what we do. With such a distinguished group in place, we are now ready to begin our work.”

Among the scientists chosen, four are members of the National Academy, two are members of the Institute of Medicine, and three are present or former Howard Hughes Investigators. To avoid conflicts of interest, the scientists live and work outside of the State of California. Members will be compensated on a per diem basis, and have agreed to abide by the confidentiality and conflict of interest policies of the CIRM during grant review. For more information on the conflicts of interest policy for the Grants Review Working Group please visit: <http://www.cirm.ca.gov/conflict/pdf/grants.pdf>.

Brief biographies of the appointed members are below.

-MORE-

Grants Working Group

Susan Bonner-Weir, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Senior Investigator at the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston. Her research concerns the architecture of the tissue in the pancreas that secretes insulin and the factors that regulate its growth and differentiation. Dr. Bonner-Weir has served on grants review panels for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and American Diabetes Association, as well as on numerous editorial boards.

Ali Brivanlou, Ph.D., is a Professor and Head of the Laboratory of Molecular Vertebrate Embryology at the Rockefeller University in New York. Dr. Brivanlou is a developmental biologist who is currently working on primate stem cells to identify factors that determine germ layer specification during early development. Among his awards is the President's Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

Patricia Donahoe, M.D., is Director of Pediatric Surgical Research Laboratories, former Chief of Pediatric Surgical Services at Massachusetts General Hospital, and holds the Marshall K. Bartlett Chair of Surgery at the Harvard Medical School. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board at St. Jude's Medical Center and has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Board at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development National Advisory Council. Her work ranges from the fundamental developmental biology of the reproductive system to ovarian cancer to surgical procedures for repair of congenital anomalies. Dr. Donahoe is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine. She is President-elect of the American Pediatric Surgical Association and has received numerous research prizes and honorary degrees for her work.

Andrew Feinberg, M.D., M.P.H., is Director of the Molecular Medicine Division of the Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins. He and his colleagues have pioneered research on epigenetic mechanisms in human cancers. Dr. Feinberg has been a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator and has served as a charter member of the NIH Study Section on Cancer Genetics.

Alexandra Joyner, Ph.D., is a developmental biologist and Professor in the Departments of Genetics, Cell Biology and Physiology & Neuroscience at the New York University School of Medicine. She is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and the Skirball Foundation Professor of Genetics. Dr. Joyner studies the cellular and genetic events that regulate development of the mammalian brain using the mouse as a model system.

-MORE-

Judith Kimble, Ph.D., is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and Vilas Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Medical Genetics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Kimble's research focuses on early embryogenesis, organogenesis, and cellular differentiation in a model organism, *Caenorhabditis elegans*. Dr. Kimble is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. She is currently President of the Society for Developmental Biology and past president of the Genetics Society.

Bob Klein, J.D., is Chairman of the ICOC. As the creator and primary backer of Proposition 71, which led to the creation of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), Klein has been an instrumental figure in advocating for research and the development of cures for a variety of causes including Alzheimer's and diabetes and was honored by *Time Magazine* as one of 2005's "100 Most Influential People of the Year." He is also President of Klein Financial Corporation, a property investment banking consulting company. In addition to his real-estate work, Klein continues to remain involved in health initiatives outside of CIRM and serves on the board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Klein received his Bachelor of Arts in history from Stanford University and a Juris Doctor from Stanford Law School.

Sherry Lansing serves as the patient advocate for Cancer on the ICOC. Founder and current chair of the Sherry Lansing Foundation, a philanthropy organization focusing on cancer research, health and education, she was the former chair of the Motion Picture Group of Paramount Pictures from 1992 to 2005, where she oversaw the release of more than 200 films including Academy Award winners like "Forrest Gump," "Braveheart," and "Titanic." Her distinguished career has earned her numerous awards including the Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship, the Milestone Award from the Producers Guild of America, and an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from the American Film Institute, among many others. She continues to lend her energy and talents to such advisory boards and committees as the American Red Cross Board of Governors, The Carter Center and Stop Cancer, a non-profit philanthropic group she founded in partnership with Dr. Armand Hammer. Lansing received her Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University.

Jeffrey Macklis, M.D., is Associate Professor of Neurosurgery, Neurology and Neuroscience at Harvard Medical School and Director of the newly established Massachusetts General Hospital-Harvard Medical School Center for Nervous System Repair. Dr. Macklis' research focus is on mechanisms of brain and spinal cord repair—with an emphasis on neural stem cell biology, induction of adult neurogenesis, and directed neuronal differentiation. Dr. Macklis received the Innovation Award from the NIH Director's office in 1997.

-MORE-

Stuart Orkin, M.D., is the David G. Nathan Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Orkin's research focuses on the molecular genetics of hematologic disease, mechanisms of blood cell development, and stem cell biology. He is a member of the National Academies of Science and the Institute of Medicine and has been an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute since 1986. He has served as a member or chair on multiple advisory and review committees at the NIH.

Phyllis Preciado, M.D., is the patient advocate for Type II Diabetes on the ICOC. Dr. Preciado has received praise for her design, development and implementation of a multidisciplinary, multicultural community-based diabetes management program. She created "ESTAR" (Educating Students To Actively Reach) as a program to mentor pre-health students from underserved communities in Fresno and to encouraging pre-medical minority students to pursue careers in health. Dr. Precadio received her medical degree from the University of California, Irvine College of Medicine and completed an Internal Medicine-Primary Care Residency Program at the Alameda County Medical Center.

Jeffrey Rothstein, M.D., Ph.D., is Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience and Director of the Robert Packard Center for ALS Research at Johns Hopkins. He oversees one of the largest ALS clinics in the United States and has been instrumental in the investigation of both the fundamental mechanisms and clinical treatment of ALS.

Pablo Rubinstein, M.D., is the Founder and Director of the New York Blood Center's National Cord Blood Program. Dr. Rubinstein, who is a Clinical Professor of Pathology at Columbia University, is an expert in immunogenetics. Dr. Rubinstein has developed the Placental Blood Program of the New York Blood Center as a useful and potentially widely available source of stem cells for bone marrow replacement. Rubinstein has served on the Mammalian Genetics Study section at the NIH and on the scientific research review committees of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International and the American Diabetes Association.

Joan Samuelson, J.D., serves on the ICOC as the patient advocate for Parkinson's Disease. Her work in the area of Parkinson's disease has earned her numerous awards and honors from her peers, including the Research! America's Advocacy Award for "Exceptional Contributions as a Volunteer Advocate for Medical Research," and the Parkinson's Institute's 15th Anniversary Award for Achievement. Diagnosed with Parkinson's in 1987, Ms. Samuelson left the practice of law to found the Parkinson's Action Network (PAN) in 1991, where she continues to serve as President and a member of the executive committee of the Board of Directors. She has been appointed to a variety of advisory panels on biomedical research and health policy, including the Board of Directors of the Parkinson's Institute and as Patient Advocate to the Medicare Consumer Advisory Committee. Samuelson graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in public service from the University of California, Los Angeles, and earned her Juris Doctor from the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley.

-MORE-

David Serrano Sewell, J.D., is the patient advocate for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) on the ICOC. Sewell has participated in numerous local and statewide campaigns. Currently, Mr. Sewell is employed as a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, assigned to the Port of San Francisco. He has served on the City's Ethics and Elections commission and the board of directors of BRAVA! For Women in Arts. After his own diagnosis of MS, he began volunteering with the Northern California Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Sewell earned his undergraduate degree from San Francisco State University, where he served a year as Student Body President. He later attended Golden Gate University School of Law for his Juris Doctor.

Jeff Sheehy serves as the patient advocate for HIV/AIDS on the ICOC. Sheehy worked in collaboration with California State Senator Carole Migden on the Survive AIDS Initiative to raise funds for organ transplants for people with HIV, which also led to a NIH-funded protocol to perform solid organ transplants in people with HIV at sites across the country. In 1996, he and two colleagues conceived, drafted and lobbied San Francisco's historic Equal Benefits Ordinance, which requires companies contracting with the city to provide domestic partner benefits. Sheehy was appointed HIV/AIDS advisor to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom in 2004 and has been deputy director for communications at the AIDS Research Institute at UCSF since 2000. He is a recipient of the Cape Crusader Award from Equality California, the HRC Leadership Award from The Human Rights Campaign, the Tomas Fabregas AIDS Hero Award. In 1999, he was featured in *OUT* magazine's list of the most influential members of the LGBT community. Sheehy received his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Texas in Austin.

Jonathon Shestack serves as the patient advocate for mental health on the ICOC. In 1995, he co-founded The Cure Autism Now Foundation (CAN), and is now the largest non-federal funder of biological funding, with \$24 million invested in autism research. CAN funds and operates the Autism Genetic Resource Exchange, the sole open gene bank for autism and the largest collection in the world and has played an important part in setting NIMH standards on issues of broad data sharing and scientific collaboration. In 2002, Shestack was appointed as one of three public members to the NIH Internal autism coordinating committee. Shestack serves on two bio-ethic task forces, a Department of Energy group on issues of ethics and gene patenting, and the Stanford University Center on Integrating Ethics and Genetic Research. Shestack has a particular interest in mental health issues, the rights of vulnerable populations, in specifically children and the mentally ill. In his professional life Shestack is a movie producer currently based at Warner Brothers. He was president of production of Artisan Entertainment and Executive Vice President of Beacon Entertainment where he produced "Air Force One." He was the production executive on "Bring It On," "Thirteen Days," and "Family Man."

-MORE-

Dennis Steindler, Ph.D., is currently Professor of Medical Research and the Executive Director of the Brain Institute of the University of Florida. Dr. Steindler has been studying the growth and transplantation of brain and stem cells for over 25 years. He has recently chaired the brain repair and stem cell review panel at the NIH.

Rainer Storb, M.D., is the Head of Transplantation Biology Program at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. Dr. Storb's research is focused on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and basic and translational research into the biology of hematopoietic cell transplantation.

Clive Svendsen, Ph.D., is Director of the Stem Cell Research Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Waisman Center. His research centers on neural stem cells. He has served as a grant reviewer on multiple NIH study sections as well as for several scientific grant foundations.

Alan Trounson, Ph.D., is Professor of Stem Cell Sciences at Monash University, and is the Founder and Executive Vice Chairman of Australian Stem Cell Centre. Dr. Trounson is on the Victorian Government's Innovation Economy Advisory Board, and is a Director of the Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation (VESKI). His research interests are focused on human embryonic stem cells and their suitability for transplantation for the treatment of inflammatory lung disease and cystic fibrosis.

Janet S. Wright, M.D., F.A.C.C., is the patient advocate for heart disease on the ICOC. She is currently assisting to coordinate the American College of Cardiology's (ACC) collaboration with several disease management organizations in Phase 1 of CMS' Chronic Care Improvement Programs (CCIP). Dr. Wright practices invasive cardiology as a partner in Northstate Cardiology Consultants in Chico, California and currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the American College of Cardiology. She is the ACC Advocacy Committee's Liaison to the Food and Drug Administration and to the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation. Dr. Wright was recently elected to the board of directors of the Disease Management Association of America (DMAA) and is a member of the DMAA Healthcare Leadership Advisory Council. She received her medical doctorate at the University of Tennessee and completed her internal medicine residency at Children's Hospital and Adult Medical Center in San Francisco. She also completed a cardiovascular fellowship at San Francisco General Hospital and UCSF.

George Yancopoulos, M.D., Ph.D., is the Chief Scientific Officer and President of Regeneron Laboratories and is an Adjunct Full Professor at Columbia University. Dr. Yancopoulos is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Yancopoulos is well-known for his work on cytokines, growth factors, and their receptors and has recently devised a method of genetically modifying stem cells that can be used systematically.

###